

Claims 10-11 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, Examiner states that it is unclear what the Applicant's intended the stated percentages to represent in claims 10-11 and 29. In addition, the Examiner has stated that it is unclear what Applicant's intend by the recitation of cermet in claim 7.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. With regard to the Examiner's objection to the stated percentages, the Applicants intended the percentage to represent the following:

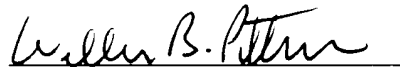
Figure 3 depicts a method 300 for preventing erosion of a wellscreen. Specifically, the method starts at step 302 and proceeds to step 304 wherein a wellscreen is provided. The wellscreen is a typical wellscreen known to those skilled in the art such as wellscreen 126 discussed above. At step 306, the wellscreen is treated by applying a coating material that increases the corrosion and erosion resistance of the wellscreen by electroless plating. Electroless plating is a process whereby the equipment to be plated is immersed in a bath solution. Electroless plating results in a relatively uniform coating of all parts of the wellscreen. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the coating material is from about 85% to 95% nickel, preferably about 90%, and from about 5% to 15% phosphorous, preferably about 10%.

The above passage is from the Applicant's specification as filed, page 4, lines 5-13. With regard to the objection raised by the Examiner in connection with the term "cermet", the Applicant would point out that "cermet" means ceramic metal. According to the MCGRAW-HILL DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS 272 (3d ed. 1984), the term cermet is commonly known in the industry as "any group composite materials made by mixing, pressing, and sintering metal with ceramic; examples are silicon-silicon carbide and chromium-alumina carbide." Applicant has provided a copy of the page from the dictionary showing the dictionary definition along with this supplemental response for review by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant believes that the subject matter of claims 7, 10-11, and 29 is supported in the specification and 35 U.S.C. §112 is satisfied.

CONCLUSION

This is a supplemental response to the Office Action dated March 7, 2002, having a shortened statutory period for response extended to expire on June 7, 2001. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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